United Nations A/68/840

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 April 2014
English
Original: Spanish

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 44
Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 11 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 11 April 2014 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Argentine Republic, addressed to you, condemning the conduct of military exercises by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the South Atlantic from 14 to 27 April 2014, including the firing of missiles from the Malvinas Islands (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 44, concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

(*Signed*) María Cristina **Perceval**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

14-29975 (E) 170414 170414

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Annex to the letter dated 11 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship

I have the honour to write to you concerning the military exercises by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, including the firing of missiles from the Malvinas Islands, which are scheduled to take place from 14 to 27 April 2014. This situation is creating unnecessary and unjustified tension in the South Atlantic, which has been declared a zone of peace by the legitimate littoral States of that ocean, which have also banned the introduction of nuclear weapons.

As you are aware, the Argentine Republic has repeatedly protested to the international community against the militarization of the South Atlantic. In this regard, on 14 February 2012 representatives of the Argentine Republic made a presentation to you, the President of the Security Council and the President of the General Assembly, in which they expressed their concern regarding the British military deployment, as part of which nuclear submarines with the capacity to transport nuclear weapons were sent to the South Atlantic.

As early as October 2010, the Argentine Republic alerted the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to the conduct of similar exercises, and IMO addressed the matter. The United Kingdom, however, continued to conduct such exercises, the most recent of which were those that came to Argentina's attention in April 2013.

Missile exercises do nothing to settle the sovereignty dispute and once again constitute defiance of the international community's call for the United Kingdom to resume the negotiations in order to reach a peaceful and definitive solution to the dispute in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the Organization on the question of the Malvinas Islands.

These exercises are the latest in a long series of unilateral measures taken by the United Kingdom in violation of United Nations General Assembly resolution 31/49, which calls upon the two parties to refrain from introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the islands are going through the negotiating process recommended by that Assembly. The measures also include the illegal exploration and exploitation of renewable and non-renewable natural resources in Argentine maritime areas.

Argentina considers that this new unilateral British action is inadmissible and merely confirms that the United Kingdom can only justify its illegitimate presence in the South Atlantic through military might, which reflects its contempt for the pronouncements of the international community and, in particular, for the concern expressed in this regard by the entire region through multiple declarations of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), as well as the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, the South American and Arab Countries Summit and, recently, the ministerial meeting of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, held in Montevideo in January 2013.

These repeated British military exercises in the South Atlantic underscore the urgent need for the United Kingdom to comply with its obligations as a State

Member of the United Nations and in particular as a permanent member of the Security Council, and to agree to resume the negotiations in order to reach a peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on the question of the Malvinas Islands.

The Naval Hydrographic Service of the Argentine Republic, after assessing the seriousness of the risks to the safety of navigation posed by the British exercises, and in the framework of its duties and responsibilities as coordinator of NAVAREA VI, the navigational area covering the South-West Atlantic Ocean, immediately issued a radio navigational warning expressly reserving Argentina's sovereignty rights over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

The Argentine Government protested against the conduct of these military exercises to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, demanding that it refrain from conducting them. Furthermore, this situation has been brought to the attention of the Chair of the United Nations Special Committee on decolonization, the Secretaries-General of IMO, UNASUR and the Organization of American States, the Ibero-American Summit, the League of Arab States, the presidencies pro tempore of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, MERCOSUR and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Group of 77 and China, and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

The Argentine Republic reaffirms its sovereignty rights over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, which form an integral part of its national territory. It once again reiterates its permanent and constant willingness to negotiate, in accordance with United Nations provisions, and requests that the present letter be circulated among the States Members of the Organization.

(*Signed*) Héctor **Timerman**
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship